

**SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS**

The undersigned representative of the Applicant wishes to express appreciation to the Examiner for inviting this opportunity to submit supplemental remarks with regard to the rejection of Claims 3-8, 10 and 11.

The Applicant concedes that dependent Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 stand or fall with independent Claim 1. Dependent Claim 6, however, does not stand or fall with Claim 1 but is here argued separately.

Claim 6 depends directly from Claim 1 and sets forth the further and perfecting limitation that the metal lower bearing (126) is retained in the central bore (104) by an interference fit. This limitation is neither shown nor suggested in any of the cited references. Specifically, Graham '906 fails to disclose any metal lower bearing, in that the head end portion (12A) of its metal movable member (12) seats directly into the housing without any interposed bearing element. Herbenar '557 discloses a resilient plastic lower bearing (33) that is split as depicted in its Figure 3. Mahan '853 discloses an all-plastic bearing ball joint assembly.

Accordingly, none of the prior art discloses the Applicant's claimed metal lower bearing retained in a central bore by an interference fit, as set forth in dependent Claim 6. Accordingly, if Claim 1 is not found to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 6 is neither shown nor disclosed in the prior art of record and is therefore allowable.

**Concluding Remarks**

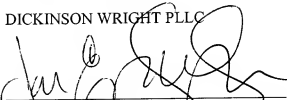
Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested on the basis of these amendments.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or refund any excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC



Date: 1-12-2009

Jon E. Shackelford, Registration No. 36,003  
38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2970  
734-623-1734